



**SUPREME COURT  
of the  
FEDERATED STATES OF MICRONESIA**

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Associate Justice

**LARRY WENTWORTH**  
Associate Justice

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**Statement by the FSM Supreme Court on the passing of the Honorable Richard Benson**

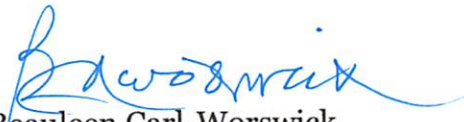
It is with great sadness that we all heard about the passing of the Honorable Richard Benson. In 1981, he left the Island Court of Guam and became the first Associate Justice of the Supreme Court of the Federated States of Micronesia. Justice Benson was one of only two justices and a guiding light of the FSM Supreme Court for its first decade. For the court's second decade, he was one of three justices and an inspiration to the FSM judicial community. Justice Benson retired from the FSM Supreme Court in 2001. Yet, even after retirement to Guam, Justice Benson willingly and frequently assisted the FSM Supreme Court by accepting assignments and appointments to FSM cases whenever asked.

Over the course of his tenure at the Court, Justice Benson served as a mentor and role model to many of the Court's staff as well as numerous of the legal profession. The FSM judicial community and the public at large are forever in his debt for his (and his colleagues') diligent work during the FSM Supreme Court's formative years. Justice Benson set a high standard for succeeding FSM Supreme Court justices to emulate. As a tribute to his dedication to the legal profession, the Court has a legal digest of its decisions, many of which were authored by Justice Benson, and relied upon today as binding legal precedent.

We have fond memories of Justice Benson and we mourn his passing. Justice Benson was a brilliant jurist, a scholarly member of the legal profession and compassionate human being. We will remember him always and his contributions to the FSM. Thank you, Justice Benson, and may you rest in peace.

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Finally, the Court expresses its deepest sympathy and condolences to Justice Benson's loved ones, his wife Betty and children.



Beaulen Carl-Worswick  
Acting Chief Justice  
FSM Supreme Court